

NEW AND OVERLOOKED RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM ISLANDS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, QUEENSLAND

JOHN V. PETERS

245 Quarry Road, Ryde, NSW 2112

Abstract

Eleven species of butterflies are newly recorded from Dunk Island and four species are newly recorded from islands off Gladstone. Six previously overlooked species are also listed.

Introduction

Duckworth and McLean (1986) published lists of butterflies from many of the Great Barrier Reef island groups, from Stanley Island in the north (near Cape Melville) to Lady Musgrave Island in the south (east of Gladstone). They listed 11 species from Dunk Island (one of the Family Group, off Tully, northern Queensland), of which seven species were collected by McLean on 26 October 1982; this material is housed in the Australian Museum, Sydney. These species were *Cressida cressida cressida* (Fabricius), *Delias mysis mysis* (Fabricius), *Mycalasis terminus terminus* (Fabricius), *Cupha prosope prosope* (Fabricius), *Candalides erinus erinus* (Fabricius), *Nacaduba cyanea arinia* (Oberthür) and *Zizina labradus labradus* (Godart). The four previously recorded species were *Papilio ulysses joesa* Butler, *Ornithoptera priamus euphorion* (Gray), *Hypolimnas bolina nerina* (Fabricius) and *Cethosia cydippe chrysippe* (Fabricius) (Banfield 1908, 1911). One of these, *P. ulysses joesa*, was reported by Banfield (1908) as having been observed on Dunk I. on 26 May 1848 by John Macgillivray, naturalist on the expeditions of HMS Rattlesnake. It is also interesting to note that Banfield (1908) listed five species of butterflies. The fifth, perhaps a *Eurema* Hübner species, he described as 'the little yellow "wanderers" ever busy and active, came low over the water, weary with the long journey, and sometimes ready to rest - shifty flecks of gold on the white sail.'

New and overlooked records

Dunk Island

On 19 July 2003, I spent the day on Dunk Island and took the opportunity to collect or to make a note of the butterflies I saw there. The following 15 species were all observed or collected outside the National Park [new records are indicated by an asterisk]: *Catopsilia pomona* (Fabricius)*, *Melanitis leda bankia* (Fabricius)*, *Tirumala hamata hamata* (W. S. Macleay)*, *Euploea tulliolus tulliolus* (Fabricius)*, *Tellervo zoilus zoilus* (Fabricius)* and *Arhopala Boisduval* sp.* [*Arhopala micale amytis* (Hewitson) was common at Mission Beach on the mainland] were all observed, while *Ocybadistes ardea ardea* Bethune-Baker*, *Suniana sunias rectivitta* (Mabille)*, *Eurema hecabe hecabe* (Linnaeus)*, *Appias paulina ega* (Boisduval)*, *Mycalasis terminus terminus*, *Cupha prosope prosope*, *Hypolimnas bolina nerina*,

Nacaduba cyanea arinia and *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus)* were all collected. The 11 new records increase the number of species known from Dunk Island to 22.

Quoin Island

Duckworth and McLean (1986) listed 28 species from a group of islands off Gladstone, central Queensland, viz: Curtis, Garden, Compigne, Wiggins and Facing Islands. On 3 September 1961, I collected on Quoin Island, located south of Curtis I. and between Garden and Facing Is. Quoin I. is described in a tourist resort brochure as 'with an area of 87 acres and a shoreline of three miles [it] is one of the numerous islands surrounding Gladstone and is unique because of its unusual and rugged contours.' Twelve species of butterflies were collected on Quoin I., of which five are additional to Duckworth and McLean's (1986) listing for the island group. These are *Eurema brigitta australis* (Wallace), *Eurema herla* (W. S. Macleay), *Elodina parthia* (Hewitson), *Elodina queenslandica* De Baar & Hancock and *Zizeeria karsandra* (Moore), the latter previously recorded by Peters (1963). This brings the total number of species known from the group to 33.

Overlooked records

Duckworth and McLean (1986) also inadvertently omitted *Allora doleschallii doleschallii* (C. Felder) from Magnetic Island (near Townsville), *Euploea alcahoe eichhorni* Staudinger from Lindeman Island (east of Proserpine) and *Belenois java peristhene* (Boisduval) from the Percy Isles (east of Sarina), all recorded by Common and Waterhouse (1981), and the earlier records of *Hypochrysops apelles apelles* (Fabricius) from Magnetic Island and *Ogyris zosine zosine* (Hewitson) from the Whitsunday Islands (Wyatt 1955).

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr C.N. Smithers for his critical comments on the initial draft of this paper and Dr M. Moulds for access to the Australian Museum butterfly collection.

References

- BANFIELD, E.J. 1908. *The confessions of a beachcomber*. Unwin, London; xii + 336 pp.
- BANFIELD, E.J. 1911. *My tropic isle*. Unwin, London; 315 pp.
- COMMON, I.F.B. and WATERHOUSE, D.F. 1981. *Butterflies of Australia*. Angus & Robertson, Sydney; 682 pp, 49 pls.
- DUCKWORTH, B.G. and McLEAN, J.A. 1986. Notes on a collection of butterflies from the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland. *Australian Entomological Magazine* 13: 43-68.
- PETERS, J.V. 1963. A new locality for *Zizeeria lysimon larsandra* Moore 1865. *Australian Zoologist* 13(1): 29.
- WYATT, C. 1955. *Going wild: the autobiography of a bug-hunter*. Hollis & Carter, London; xii + 214 pp.